



Education and Leadership for a Lifetime

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TO: Superintendent
Principal
Athletic Director
Region Secretaries

FROM: Erich Martens

DATE: August 2023

RE: Election Days

State law sets forth the requirements for public elementary and secondary schools regarding school-sponsored events scheduled when "a regularly-scheduled" election is held.

A "regularly-scheduled" election is one which is:

- a primary election
- a general election
- a township election

NOT included in the above is an election which is:

- a special election
- a postponed election
- an election whose date has not been set, although the likelihood of the election is anticipated

The specific language in Minnesota Statutes is, "*Except for regularly-scheduled classes, a public elementary or secondary school may not schedule a school-sponsored event between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day that a regularly-scheduled election is held in any political subdivision in which the school is located.*" M.S. 204C.03, subd. 3

My recommendation is that each year you contact the appropriate people in your community to determine the "regularly-scheduled" election dates in order to avoid any potential conflicts.

The following information was completed with the assistance of the Elections Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State's office. If you have any questions about the following, please contact the Secretary of State's attorney, Bibi Black, at 651-201-1326.

EM/aj

SCHEDULING - ELECTION DAYS

The following information was obtained from the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. These are not MSHSL rules and policies and, if there are questions about what constitutes a "school sponsored event" outside of games, contests, practices, scrimmages, etc., the Secretary of State's office suggests contacting your school's legal counsel.

- Presidential Primary* -** **The Presidential Primary is new, please see additional information on page 3**
First Tuesday in March of a presidential election year. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Precinct Caucus Day -** First Tuesday of February in a year when no presidential nomination primary is required. Or the Tuesday immediately prior to the presidential nomination primary in a year when a presidential nomination primary is required. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS AFTER 6:00 p.m.
- Township Elections -** Second Tuesday in March. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. if you have townships within your school district.
- City General Elections -** First Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. if you have city elections within your school district. (Note: Cities can opt for odd-year elections instead.) Check with your individual city regarding their election process.
- School Board Elections -** First Tuesday following the first Monday in November. School districts have the option of conducting elections in odd or even-numbered year. However, school boards have options to choose other election dates, so **BE SURE TO CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL BOARD REGARDING THEIR ELECTION PROCESS.** NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- State Primary Elections -** Second Tuesday in August in each even-numbered year. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- City Primaries -** Second Tuesday in August in any year in which an election is held. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. if you have city elections within your school district.
- State General Elections -** First Tuesday following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. NO SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS BETWEEN 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

You should also check with your local municipality or school district to see if there are other dates when regularly scheduled elections occur. And, as always, feel free to contact the Secretary of State's office at 651-215-1440 for clarification.

* PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

In 2016 [legislation was passed](#) establishing a presidential nomination primary. Common questions about the presidential primary are answered below.

When will the presidential nomination primary take place?

It will take place on the first Tuesday in March of a presidential election year, unless the major party chairs agree on a different date by March 1 of the previous year.

Will all parties participate in the presidential nomination primary?

No, only [major parties](#) will participate.

Will all parties be on the same ballot?

No, each major party will have a separate ballot.

Who decides which candidates will appear on a party's ballot?

The chair of each party will submit a list of candidates for the party's ballot no later than 63 days before the date of the presidential primary.

What if a candidate drops out before the primary?

Once a party's list is submitted, changes will not be made to candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Will there be a place to write in a choice or vote for "uncommitted"?

Only if it is requested by the party chair. Party chairs will need to submit names of write-in candidates to be counted seven days before the primary.

Will any other offices be on the ballot?

No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

Who can vote in the presidential primary?

Any voter registered in Minnesota. Voters can pre-register through February 13, or [register at the polling place](#) when they vote. *Note that voters must turn 18 years old by March 5 to vote in the presidential primary.*

How will I be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary?

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee up to 46 days before presidential primary day. A voter must state which party's ballot they want and will be given a ballot containing only that party's candidates. If you refuse to select a party, you will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.

Will other people know which party's ballot I request?

A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

Will parties have to abide by the primary results?

The presidential primary results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

Who will pay for the presidential nomination primary?

County and municipalities will be reimbursed by the state for the primary costs.

How much will the primary cost?

In 2020, the cost to administer the presidential primary was \$9.6 million. Counties and municipalities will be reimbursed for their costs of administering the Presidential Nomination Primary following the election.

Will there still be precinct caucuses?

Yes, precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

Is the presidential nomination primary the same as the presidential primary?

Yes, the official name of this election is "presidential nomination primary" but it is most commonly known simply as the presidential primary.

Source: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/presidential-primary/>

Future Election Dates

2023-2025 ELECTION DATES

Future regular election dates subject to change

Year	Precinct Caucus*	March Township	Primary	General Election
2023	no statewide caucus	3/14/23	8/8/23	11/7/23
2024	2/27/24	3/12/24	8/13/24	11/5/24
2025	no statewide caucus	3/11/25	8/12/25	11/4/25

*Caucus dates as set by [Minnesota Statutes 202A.14](#), unless the chairs of the two largest major political parties jointly notify the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State of a different date by March 1 of the preceding year.

Beginning in 2018, special elections may only be held on certain dates. See [Special Elections](#) for more information.

The 2024 [Presidential Primary](#) is scheduled for 3/5/24.